

St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe



School Newsletter Number 26 Tuesday 25th August 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

"For me, the intellect is always the guide but not the goal of the performance. Three things have to be coordinated, and not one must predominate. Not too much intellect because it becomes too scholastic; not too much heart because it becomes too sentimental; not too much technique because it becomes too mechanical." This quote by Vladimir Horowitz, widely regarded as one of the greatest pianists of all time, was a reference he made to his performances, however, the analogy to education is also appropriate - all involved in an educative process have a desire for high achievement and the strategies employed are often enhanced by Horowitz's rather simple 'formula' of ensuring a holistic or 'well-rounded' approach.

Staff of St Patrick's continuously engage in self and collective reflection in our individual and collaborative support of improvement, which leads to enhanced opportunities for achievement. People who rate highly in the achievement stakes set realistic but goals and believe their personal efforts and contributions make a difference. Research by Robert Cooke and Janet Szumal contend high achieving individuals and organisations are characterised by people who:

- take moderate risks;
- explore alternatives before acting;
- work for a sense of accomplishment;
- pursue a standard of excellence;
- think ahead and plan.

We are currently formulating our school's next three-year strategic plan and qualities that are intrinsic to fostering a strong achievement-oriented culture are important considerations - considerations that are balanced by the holistic principles as outlined above by Horowitz, and by Pope Francis who states that generating such a process *"requires working simultaneously to integrate the different languages that constitute us as persons. That is to say, one that integrates and harmonies intellect (the head), affections (the heart) and activity (the hands.)"* Such a three-year plan will continue to build on the existing constructivist styles that two external surveys have validated as being strong aspects of the St Patrick's Catholic School culture. As educators, parents and staff

would hopefully look to encourage both our students/ children, and each other, to strive to 'live out' the five qualities of high achieving individuals that were expressed earlier by Cooke and Szumal in the context of a holistic approach, not an approach where 'the ends justifies the means'. Thank you to all in our school community who support this important objective at St Patrick's.

Regards,

Rod Linhart (principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST

Tuesday 25th Sophie (School Counsellor) away.
Friday 28th 9.00am - 10.30am Inquiring Minds/Set up for Success Birth to 4 program in the kinder classroom (all welcome)
Latrobe High School Year 6 Boys Challenge Day - Date Change.
Monday 31st Latrobe High School Year 6 Girls Challenge Day

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 3rd Final day to return P & F Father's Day raffle tickets.
Friday 4th P & F Father's Day raffle drawn during morning assembly
9.00am - 10.30am Inquiring Minds/Set up for Success Birth to 4 program in the kinder classroom (all welcome)

SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2020

Term 3 Tues 21st July 2020 - Friday 25th September 2020
Term 4 Mon 12th October 2020 - Thursday 17th Dec 2020

SCHOOL STUDENT TERM DATES 2021

Wednesday 20th January: school office opens
Wednesday 27th January - Staff return
Term 1 Mon 1st Feb - Thursday 1st April 2021
Term 2 Mon 26th April - Friday 2nd July
Term 3 Mon 20th July - Friday 24th September
Term 4 Mon 11th October - Thursday 16th December
(One student free day yet TBC)

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Attendance

Thank you to all families who ensure their children are at school ready for the school day prior to 8.50am. A summary of our School Attendance Policy (located on the school website) follows. The *Education Act (2016)* governs our formation of our School Attendance Policy, which aims to maximise student learning opportunities and performance by ensuring that children required to attend school do so regularly, and without unnecessary or frivolous absences; absences often mean students miss important stages in the development of topics, causing them to find 'catching up' difficult. Absenteeism contributes significantly to student failure at school. All enrolled students are required to attend school unless reasonable and valid grounds exist for them to be absent. Illness, temporary physical or mental incapacity or any other reasonable causes are reasonable grounds for an absence; shopping excursions or birthday parties are not. Reasonable grounds for absences include:

- Medical Certificate: A parent of the child, at the request of the Principal, is to provide a certificate from a registered medical practitioner for any absence exceeding five days.
- Infectious/Contagious Disease: The Principal has the right to require that a student not attend school if the Principal believes that the child has an infectious disease or infestation.
- Home-School Contact: Parents are expected to contact the school office before 9.10am to indicate the reason for the student's absence and the possible length of the absence.
- School-Home Contact: If the school is not informed by parents of student absences the school office administrator or delegate will contact parents to check on a student's whereabouts.
- Early departure / Late arrivals: If an absence is unexplained, office staff will ring parents prior to 9.30am. The guardian/parent of students who depart early sign the students out at the office. Students who arrive late are also signed in by the guardian/parent at the office. A written note from parents is requested if students are to be collected from school by someone other than the student's parent.

School Basketball

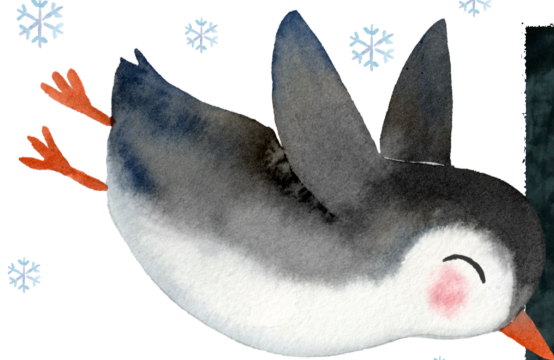
To complement a recent photo of one of our girls basketball teams, a photo of our boys basketball team is included in today's Newsletter. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Tueon for coaching and managing this team and to the boys for their spirited participation. Parents whose children are involved in one of our three teams that play in this Friday afternoon competition have received a letter last week requesting support for scoring during games - thank you in anticipation for your support.



Mandatory Reporting

A note to inform parents that under the *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act (1997)* staff at organisations such as schools are obligated to report instances of perceived child abuse (emotional and/or physical) or neglect to Child Protection Services. School staff do not investigate cases; we pass on any relevant information to the authorities, who then decide what action may be required.

Dive in to these Winter Woolies!



*Mrs Adams has been busy knitting and has made these beautiful woollen jackets, dresses and beanies for little people. These are available for purchase at the office. Please come and have a look - not all colours and designs shown here. Prices from just \$5. Money raised will go towards Mini Vinnies' next fundraising event. A very big **thank you** to Mrs Adams for her generosity.*

WEST Award

Congratulations to Xavier Parker (Prep) who received a WEST certificate during Monday's morning assembly. We will continue to acknowledge those students who exhibit WEST (*Welcoming, Encouraging; Sorry; Thankful*) qualities and Mercy Values (Hospitality, Compassion, Mercy and Respect) by presenting awards at our Monday morning assemblies.

House Raffle Winners

Byrne House: Ava Franklin

Dooley House: Jake Bracken

Martyn House: Eden Mayes

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep: Xavier Parker for his positive attitude and application towards all of his tasks and for making great contributions towards our class discussions.

Year 1: Peyton Allford for excellent progress in learning her Oxford words.

Year 2: Eva Wescombe for developing her comprehension skills by learning to infer from pictures and text.

Year 3: Sebastian Gee for his improved application to tasks especially in Geography and Science work.

Year 4: Wilf McGann for demonstrating kindness towards his class mates and for applying feedback to improve the quality of his work.

Year 5: EJ Sullivan for her helpful attitude in the classroom.

Year 6: Allie Hardimon for including the different elements of drawing into her 'Stations of the Cross' artwork.

Prep News (Mrs Jak)

This Term in Prep we have been learning about Biological Science. Our focus is 'Staying Alive'. We have been exploring how animals and humans use their sensory organs to gather information about their environment. We have discovered that humans use senses to gather information to keep us safe. We are also exploring our basic needs such as food, water and shelter. We have planted grass seeds and made a 'Hairy Caterpillar'. Students have been responsible for caring for their caterpillar to promote growth. Each Wednesday, Prep students have been working in the school garden with Mr Tim. Mrs Woodcock (Oliver's Mum) will be talking with our class about what a baby needs to grow and survive. Oliver's brother, Fletcher, will be our living example. At the end of Term we will make muffins using produce from our school garden. We will also design and create a pet house demonstrating what our pets need to survive.



COVID School Health & Safety Plan - **Added notes and Reminder**

Thank-you to all members of the school community who continue to support our school's COVID-19 Safety Plan. Some reminders in regards to some of our actions and expectations:

- No-one to enter the school grounds if he or she is feeling unwell - exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Parents:
 - attending assemblies or volunteering (**in school for longer than 15 minutes**) to **please sign-in** on either the sign-in sheet that will be provided (assembly hall foyer) or at the school office.
 - entering classrooms **at any time** are to please sanitise or wash hands thoroughly.
- **Signage** that communicates important aspects of our school's COVID-19 Safety Plan is displayed.
- **School-based hygiene** actions: Student desks and workspaces continue to be disinfected three times a day; regular cleaning of frequently touched internal surfaces continues; Students and staff are expected to wash hands or sanitise their hands upon entering classrooms.
- Currently **PERMITTED**: Library borrowing; day excursions; school athletics carnivals (less than 500 parents on site), Learn to Swim - adults social distancing; food prepared on site observing hygiene protocols.
- Currently **NOT PERMITTED**: school camps; large gatherings of parents on site; any non Catholic Education Tasmania personnel that is not directly related to a curriculum (learning and teaching) initiative.

Book Club

Issue 6 is out now. Orders are to be returned back to school or completed online by Friday 4th September.

School Validation

Our school will soon receive a visit from a small team of educators as part of a regular appraisal of how St Patrick's responds to both the Archbishop's Charter for Catholic Schools and requirements by the state government in regard to school registration. As part of our school's Validation, the banners outside Mr Linhart's office will be replaced with a more contemporary presentation that is more reflective of our current student body and highlights with great clarity our relatively recent alignment to our four Mercy Values. Our School Strategic Plan (2021 - 2023) will also reflect our response to recent surveys of staff, students and parents, in addition to a response to student learning outcome data.



2020 Pre-Kinder/ 2021 Kinder

St Patrick's Catholic School, Latrobe, will be offering a Pre-Kinder program each Monday morning for five weeks for children who have been accepted into our 2020 Kindergarten class. Sessions will be facilitated by Melissa Wescombe and Kim Klug, our current kindergarten teacher and teacher-assistant. The sessions will begin at 9.00am and conclude at 11.00am, and all sessions will take place in the St Patrick's Catholic School Kindergarten classroom on the following days (children to bring a drink & morning tea): **Monday 16th November; Monday 23rd November; Monday 30th November; Monday 7th December; Monday 14th December.** This timetabling will mean the usual 'Inquiring Minds – Setup for Success' sessions that we offer on Fridays will still be offered as usual; Friday 18th December will be our last 'Inquiring Minds – setup for Success' session for 2020. The five Pre-Kinder sessions are aimed to provide children with a realistic 'taste' of kindergarten for 2021; it is expected parents leave their children with the kindergarten staff for the duration of the program. Parents are welcome to stay for the first 15 minutes of the 'drop-off' (leaving by 9.15am.) Due to our funding agreement with the federal government, parents of pre-kinder aged students are now obliged to remain on the school grounds for the duration of any pre-kinder session – activities and information sessions are planned for parents – coffee, tea and a light morning tea will be available to parents for all sessions. The parent sessions will be convened in the school assembly hall, beginning at 9.15am, concluding with a catered morning tea at 10.30am. More information will be communicated early in term 4.

PARENTS & FRIENDS (Tameika Anthony - P & F President)

If anyone requires more ticket books for the Father's Day raffle please see Tameika Harris at the office. Tickets must be in by Thursday 3rd September. Raffle will be drawn Friday 4th September at the assembly.

Cupcakes were for sale today at recess. All money raised from these sales are going toward the Canberra trip. Thank you to the following people for donating lovely home made cupcakes to sell today Kate Warren, Renee Young, Amy Davis, Joanne Mulcahy, Anita Tueon, Tameika Anthony and Melissa Marshall.

